

# **YOUTH. COMMUNITY. ACTION.**



## Letter from Tom

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**Tom Ward**  
President & CEO,  
Oasis Center

The 2018-2019 year has been quite eventful in so many ways for so many people. Oasis and the people we serve were not excluded from the challenges we all faced. With much gratitude, I thank you for never wavering in your generous support during these turbulent times. The number of youth served and the geographic reach of our programming continues to expand as we respond to our region's growing need. Our success depends upon your generosity and constant vigilance in helping us respond effectively.

In 2019, we saw many months of work and partnering with other agencies around youth homelessness come to fruition with significant Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) funding coming to Oasis. Our staff and programming expanded to reach more and more young people experiencing homelessness. This large scale intervention comes as the number of youth living without secure housing grows at alarming rates.

There are many other concerns that affect young people today. The facts are undeniable that work, secure housing, and education are the most significant drivers to a lifetime of successful living. Within the 20+ programs we offer, we seek to establish a connection to one or all of these factors that will ultimately change the trajectory of a young person's life.

We are only able to do that with the ongoing trust and support you have given us for over 50 years. Thank you for your support and entrusting us with a great responsibility- to mold a better future for our youth.

## About Oasis

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# Building relationships that advance youth well-being, amplify youth voice and inspire action toward a just community

Located in Nashville, Oasis Center is a nationally recognized organization on a mission to help young people in Middle Tennessee move into a happy, healthy, and productive adulthood.

In 1969, a group of young lawyers came together to establish the "Rap House," a simple community center for runaway teens and youth struggling with addictions. Nearly 50 years later, the "Rap House" has evolved into Oasis Center, where over 3,000 youth and their families turn for help and direct support every year. Oasis Center provides a wide range of opportunities that reflect the diverse needs of youth and their families, from crisis intervention to youth leadership and community engagement to college and career access. Our 20+ programs and services are based on the foundation of four areas for youth success - **Safety, Belonging, Empowerment,** and **Generosity**. All of our work is also firmly rooted in the evidence-based principles of Positive Youth Development and Trauma-Informed Care.



## 2019 Statistics

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3,497

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED

540

FAMILIES ENGAGED

17

COUNTIES

120

SCHOOLS



## Youth Engagement & Action Programs

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623

youth, ages 10-21, engaged in our Youth Engagement & Action programs that provided leadership opportunities, life skills development, and meaningful community engagement experiences.

96% were economically disadvantaged

35% were New Americans

18% identified as LGBTQ+

12% were engaged in the juvenile justice system





## Youth Engagement & Action Highlights

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### Just Us Programs

# Creating community for **153** LGBTQ+ Youth

- **Just Us** expanded programming to middle school youth. **Just Camp** provided space for 10 middle school youth to build community through 288 hours of positive youth development and 108 hours of community service.
- **More to Me** engaged more young people of color than ever! 42 youth came together to dismantle the cultural stigma associated with the intersections of race, gender, orientation, and personal well-being.



## Youth Engagement & Action Highlights

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### Building Bridges

# Equipping youth to lead restorative practice advocacy efforts

- **Building Bridges** youth gave public testimony during School Board Meetings, helped persuade Metro Nashville Public Schools' decision to create a policy change memorandum repealing K-4 arrests, expulsions and limiting suspensions. View their testimony here @ (45:30 and 58:30):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UF7bNIS7O-U&t=2720s>

- Youth also gave voice to the establishment of a new **Restorative Practice** Course Code for the State of Tennessee that allows for any school in Tennessee to implement a 3-year class teaching Restorative Practice and to establish a student-led Restorative Practice team.



## Youth Engagement & Action Highlights

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### International Teen Outreach Program (ITOP)

Turning Oasis  
experiences into  
leadership  
opportunities.



Paola is one of

**190**

immigrant and  
refugee youth in  
**ITOP.**

She accepted a legal internship through **Opportunity Now** and served as Youth Moderator for the Mayoral Forum on Education. She plans to pursue immigration law in college.



## Youth Engagement & Action Highlights

### Reaching Excellence As Leaders (REAL)

Providing  
alternatives to the  
juvenile justice  
system for  
**76** youth.



**98%** of the youth involved in REAL did not re-offend during the year.

## Crisis-to-Housing Services

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Crisis-to-housing services represent a spectrum of programs and services exclusively for youth who are experiencing homelessness, have run away, and/or are experiencing familial crisis to the brink of family fracture.

**154** Runaway and youth-in-crisis and their families were provided a safe place to turn with our Emergency Shelter.

**65%** represented racial minorities

**85%** resided in low-moderate income households

**265** Youth (ages 18-24) experiencing homelessness were provided basic needs and case management.

**39%** identified as LGBTQ+

**20%** reported sexual or labor trafficking/exploitation

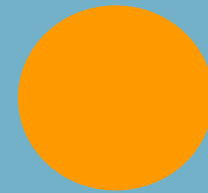
## Crisis-to-Housing Services Highlights

### Counseling

Providing therapeutic support for

**325** Youth

**562** Family members



**80%** reported improvement in the problems that brought them to Oasis



Street Outreach Program

Providing on-site outreach services  
(case management, meals, clothing,  
etc.) to an average of

**14** Youth  
per day



Crisis-to-Housing Services Highlights

Street Outreach Program-Fisk Courts

# Providing permanent housing for

# 11 youth

in partnership  
with Urban  
Housing  
Solutions



Fisk Courts



Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project

# Scaling up to implement the largest citywide initiative designed to end youth homelessness in Nashville

The newly funded **Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project** provides \$3.5 million dollars over 2 years to:

- 1) increase **diversion** strategies to provide critical supports for **230** youth, ages 24 and under, to prevent or quickly resolve their homelessness; and
- 2) implement a **rapid rehousing** component to help **70** unaccompanied youth ages 18-24 transition to permanent, stable housing and gain self-sufficiency.

## Crisis-to-Housing Services Highlights

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### Emergency Shelter

Providing a safe, short-term place to stay for youth, ages 13-17.



97%



who stayed in our  
Emergency Shelter were  
safely reunited with their  
families or transitioned  
to a safe, permanent  
living situation.

## Postsecondary Access & Success

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# 2,455

youth engaged in Postsecondary Access & Success initiatives that focus on helping disadvantaged youth access college, vocational, and career opportunities that lead to long-term employability and self-sufficiency.

**80%** were economically disadvantaged

**85%** represented students of color

**59%** represented potential first generation college-goers

**39%** were non-native English-speakers



Oasis College Connection

# Improving access to higher education

70%

of first generation college students participating in College Connection's Resource Centers at Nashville State stayed in college - a rate



30%

higher than their NSCC peers.



## Postsecondary Access & Success Highlights

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### Oasis Transitions

Creating career  
pathways and  
removing barriers for  
long-term success for  
**175** youth

**77%** gained employment





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Coretta Scott King



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Tamasyn Nelson  
Patrick Neuman  
Allan Newcomb  
Emily Newsome  
My-Linh Ngo  
Melinda Noblitt  
Cindy Noel  
Margaret S. Norris M.D.  
Cherri North  
Whitney North  
Iris Ocasio  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Oldfield Jr.  
James Oliver  
Carly Ostmeyer  
Craig Padgett  
Eric Paisley  
Raymond & Wanda Paley  
Geoffrey Parker

## Our Partners

\$249 - \$1

Kaitlyn Parmenter

Emily and Mike Passino

Devang Pastakia

Andrew and Jami Patrick

Shira Paul

Jan Peace

Peg Leg Porker Spirits

Pennington Distillery Co.

Steven Pennington

Erica Perez

Elias Perry

Jason Phillips

Barbara Pierce

Ms. Elizabeth Pierce

Pinhook

Leigh Ann Pittenger

Tim Pitts

Gregory Plemmons & James Larkins

Elizabeth Ponce

Sarah Poteete

Lisa Price

Proximo Spirits

Elizabeth Pulsinelli

James Rabiola

Radical Arts

Fallon Ragan

Marsha Raimi

Shanelle Rauh

Alexander Rawden

Andrew Redding

Ms. Suzanne Reed

Marjorie Rice Mason

Melissa Rick

Corey Ricks

Kiah Rinehart

Lisa Rippe McGuffey

Andrea Rizk

Rose Robertson

Stephen Robinson

Carey Rogers

Julie Rogers

Katherine Rogers

Lawrence Rogers

Lance Roggendorff

Adam Ruf

Christopher Russell

St. Bernard Academy

Gena Saldana

Salesforce

Dancey Sanders

Robert B. Sanders

Sazerac

Ms. Tricia Schelzig

Seth Scholer

William Schultz

Dustin Schuman

Bradley Segers

Matthew Shaw

Elisa Shearer

Jama Shelton

Jessica Shepherd

Sarah Shrewsbury

Randy Silcox

Patrick Sims & Chad James

Smack Clothing

Lindsey Smallwood

Collier Smith

Mr. & Mrs. E. Dan Smith II

Ms. Tammy Smith

Virginia Smith

Matt & Ben Smith-Metz

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Snyder

Tristan Snyder

Caroline Somerville

Michael Spear

Amanda Stahl

Christine Staigl

Mark Stasch

State Auto Insurance

Jeffrey Steele

Kathleen Stenberg

Kimberly Stephan Tate

STR, Inc.

Sukhino Designs

Tim Sullivan

Ben Sutter

Debra and Craig Swagerty

## Our Partners

\$249 - \$1

Justine Tauger	Jonathan Vest	John Whitemore
Betty Jane and Larry Taylor	Crystal Wakitsch	Megan Wiggins
Jocelyn Taylor	Ms. Mary Walker	Willett Distillery
Kelly Taylor	Elizabeth Wall	Mrs. Carol Williams
Lucy Taylor	Lisa Wallace	Christy Williams
Tennessee Legend Distillery	Nathaniel Wallish	Tyler Williams
The Assembly	Josh & Katie Ward	Kate Willingham
Viraj Tiwari	Watkins Queer Student Union	Dan Wittig
Marcia Topiwala	Carlee and Baxter Webb	Kimberly Woodard
Meredith Toth	Charles Webb	John & Casey Woods
Elizabeth Trabue	Drew Webb	Veretta D. Woods
Susi Trabue	Ruth Wehby	Mark Wutka and Mary McKinney-Wutka
Ms. Martha Trammell	Mr. David Weintraub	Li Xu
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Trauger	Cathy Weisbrodt	United Health Group
Zachary Troughton	Steven Weissenburger	Zeta Beta Tau, Alpha Gamma Chapter
Dana True	Cathy Werthan	Margaret Zibart
Linette Turner	Western Grace Distilling	Jolie Zimmerman
Christopher Urbanczyk	Anthony Wetherington	Mindy Zimmerman
Tyler Urborg	Sara Whitaker	Rick Zimmerman
Erika Usi	Whistle Pig	
Rene VanDeVoorde	Michael White	
Lida Vanorman		



“If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life.”

Anonymous

## Board of Directors

.....

**Jimmy Bynum** (President)  
*Alexander & Preston, LLC*

**Kendall Musgrove** (Vice President)  
*Asurion*

**Lavona Russell** (Secretary)  
*Community Volunteer*

**Dr. Norma Burgess** (Past President)  
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*Hispanic Family Foundation*

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*Parallon*

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**Charles Robert Bone**  
*Bone McAllester Norton, PLLC*

**Lisa Campbell**  
*Community Volunteer*

**Laura Creekmore**  
*Creek Content*

**Honorable Richard Dinkins**  
*Tennessee State Courts*

**Rev. Sonnye Dixon**  
*Hobson United Methodist Church*

**Kent Earls**  
*University Music Publishing Group*

**Martha Earls**  
*efg Management*

**Dr. Norma Burgess** (Past President)  
*Lipscomb University*

**Beth Fortune**  
*Community Volunteer*

**Jason Jensen**  
*Asurion*

**Andres Martinez**  
*Conexión Américas*

**Dave Mazur**  
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**Susan Mosley-Howard**  
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*Reservoir Media*

**Michael Peacock**  
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*Bank of Tennessee*

**Sam Strang**  
*Alley-Cassetty*

**Brenda Wynn**  
*Metro Government*

**Jill Heyman** (Junior League Rep.)  
*VML*

**Even Lengerich** (Intern)  
*Heritage Group*

**Shikhar Shukla** (Intern)  
*Skanska USA Building Inc.*

**Kelly Alfara** (Youth Rep.)  
*MTSU*

**Daniel Mehus** (Youth Rep.)  
*Vanderbilt University*

## Financials FY2019

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### Revenue & Other Support

Private Contributions	\$2,298,377
Federal & State Grants	\$2,100,323
United Way	\$328,000
Program Fees & Misc.	\$118,680
Investment Gain	\$45,547
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,890,927</b>

### Expenses

Crisis & Residential Services	\$948,317
Counseling	\$262,080
Statewide TOP	\$694,334
Youth Engagement & Action	\$1,105,260
Oasis College Connection	\$400,966
Transitions	\$420,836
Management General & Fundraising	\$1,059,116
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,890,909</b>



Together . . .

Building relationships that advance youth well-being, amplify youth voice and inspire action towards a just community



1704 Charlotte Ave. Ste. 200  
Nashville, TN 37203  
615.327.4455  
[www.oasiscenter.org](http://www.oasiscenter.org)

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